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***COURSE:*** HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (GST 118)

***QUESTION***: SUMMARIZE CHAPTER 8 OF THE BOOK “HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE”

**PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND APPLIED SCIENCE**

Believe in science or any application of science to any issue is called positivism. The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called renaissance period because it marked a period when people started a revolution return to their Greek heritage or using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was in the age prior this time. Romanticism gives rise to naturalism and humanism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic.  
 Bertrand Russell puts this more succinctly when he said that “the period of history which is commonly called modern has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval periods in many ways. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as means of obtaining knowledge.

**What is social science?**

An area of study dedicated to the explanation of the human behavior, interactions and manifestations either as an individual in the society or collectively as a group. These are some of the objectives of social science:

1: understanding humans in both historical and cultural developments context and features responsible for such development or change.

2: Being able to predict human behaviors based on the pattern of interactions, belief systems, social norms and other human behaviors especially in relations to economic and political activities.

3: Discovering and manipulating if possible, the laws governing most of human behaviors.

Francis offor explains this point that the principles of and effects states that for every event in the universe, there are sets of conditions such that if the conditions are all fulfilled, then the event invariably occurs. Another problem with the project of social science is that, according to Max Weber, methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to fact that the object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come to play in actions or reactions.